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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1906.

Duty is the sublimest word in the English language.

—Robert E. Lee.

Robert Edward Lee.

In meditating upon the life and walk of the man whose anniversary we celebrate to-day, our thoughts dwell especially upon one of his noblest sayings—a saying that has especial application and force at this time.

Soon after the war ended he was offered the presidency of an insurance company and after the hint was thrown out, or General Lee received impression, that the company was willing to pay liberally for his influence. He replied, with what dignity and reason we can well imagine, that if he had any influence with the Southern people, it was not a thing of traffic and could not be bought for a price.

No speech of this great Southern warrior and statesman more aptly proclaimed his principles and his character. He took no thought for himself, save his honor and his duty. He did not fight for fame, or for the love of adventure and conquest. He looked not for reward of any character; he had no purpose save that of doing his duty, in a spirit of sacrifice and affection, for his own people and his own land. He fought as only a man can fight who is certain of the righteousness of his cause, the of the righteousness of his cause, he fought with all his skill and genius, he fought with all his heart and devotion, he fought in the spirit of religious consecration to the Southern cause; yet when he became convinced that further struggle was useless, in the same spirit of duty and sacrifice, he surrendered to the inevitable, unwilling that any drop of blood on either side should be unnecessarily spilled.

By and by when the war was ended, he retired in amiability and characteristic dignity to private life and consecrated the remainder of his days to the education of Southern youth.

The thought of trading on his fame, the thought of using his influence as an article of commerce and for his own gain, was as unattainable in his heart and as repulsive to his sense of honor and chivalry as the thought of waging bloody war for plunder and spoils. No flattery that Ben Hill, of Georgia, said of him:

"He was a foe without hate, a friend without weakness, a soldier without cruelty, and a victim without murmuring. He was a public officer without vices, a private citizen without wrong, a neighbor without reproach, a Christian without hypocrisy, and a man without guile."

No flattery that Charles Francis Adams said of him: "Just so long as men admire courage, devotion, patriotism, the high sense of duty and personal honor—all, in a word, which go to make up what we know as character—just so long will that type of a man be held in affectionate, reverential memory."

He was every inch a man and represented all that was best in Southern chivalry. Southern character, Southern manhood. Robert E. Lee was, as far as humanity could be, the perfect type.

Virginia's Opportunity.

Yesterday we made reference to a letter published in the Birmingham Ledger from the secretary of the Board of Trade of the town of Bessemer, urging upon the people of that section the importance of having a suitable exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition. In thinking over that letter, it has occurred to us to ask if the people of Virginia generally appreciate the importance of the Jamestown Exposition, and if they are preparing to make on behalf of this State such an exhibit as will do the State full credit. It would be mortifying beyond expression, and it would be disgraceful for us to allow some other State to make a better exhibit than we make on our own behalf. It will be the greatest opportunity Virginia has ever had to advertise her resources and advantages, to advertise her lands and all her facilities for industry and commerce. There is every indication that thousands and hundreds of thousands of persons from all parts of the Union will visit the exposition, and many will come with a view to settling here, or making investments. We should see to it that every possible attraction is presented for their consideration.

The Virginia exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition has already paid the State many times over for the outlay, and we are still realizing on the investment. Dr. Richard McIlwaine, who has spent fifty-five years of his life in the county of Prince Edward, informs us that within

the past two years more settlers have located in that county than in all the previous years of its residence there. He says that a few years ago there was not a member of the Lutheran Church in the whole county, but that a sufficient number of Lutherans from Wisconsin and Iowa have recently settled in the neighborhood of Farmville to organize a congregation and build a church in that town. He further says that these settlers have gone to work in good earnest and to all appearances are prospering.

Naturally the Jamestown celebration will turn the attention of prospectors throughout the Union towards Virginia, and those who come will first visit the exposition in order to gain the information they are seeking. If we make a favorable impression upon them there, we may reasonably expect to locate a large portion; if we fail to impress them at our own exposition, we may reasonably expect that most of them will take their departure and seek more inviting fields.

Let us see to it that they are not disappointed.

Senator Depew's Vindication.

For whatever it may be worth to him, Senator Chauncey M. Depew has secured his official vindication. The Senate of the State of New York has once more stamped him with its unqualified approval. One member of that body only was moved to ask for his resignation, and one member only voted for it. Brackett alone in that body has gone on record against Depew, and the things that Depew represents. The others stand committed, by their expressed preferences, to the approbation of Depewism and Depew.

The New York State senators found that nothing in Depew's past justified them in asking for his resignation from the United States Senate. They went further than this. They improved the occasion to pay a tribute to his character and attainments. Because he was "a dignified, affable gentleman," and "the ripest scholar of his time," they argued that the move to unseat him was improper and uncalled for. They found that the ex-counsel to the Equitable was the wronged victim of "a newspaper campaign of assassination." Senator Depew's vindication was complete, and Mr. Brackett found himself in a hopeless minority of one.

A few of the senators based their vote on the argument that there exist a good many other men worse than Mr. Depew. This reasoning is not moral, but it is undoubtedly true. There are worse men in the world than Mr. Depew. No doubt there are even worse senators. But there are few whose shame has been so open. Depew's fall must be measured by his former height. His popularity and prestige were great. One day a surprised people awoke to the fact that he had been fattening for years as a common grafter and corporation hanger-on. Since then he has found himself in a position which a man more conscious of lofty ideals would long ago have found intolerable. Depew, however, has stuck it out, and now, it seems, will continue to hold on till the end of his term, five years hence.

Few people would maintain, we imagine, that Depew is a deliberately wicked man, or deny that his punishment has already been great. Despite the handsome testimonial he has received from the New York Legislature, he presents just now rather a pitiable spectacle. It is hard to avoid feeling genuinely sorry for him. Now that the body who made him a senator has again given him its unstinting endorsement, and he is under no compulsion whatever, it occurs to us that his voluntary retirement from the United States Senate would be a fitting and graceful act. His continued stay there, surely, can be no advantage to his constituents and no pleasure to himself.

The Principle of Taxation.

Now that the General Assembly has begun to consider the question of taxation, there are several fundamental principles which this paper has from time to time declared, and which we would impress upon the law-makers of Virginia.

All property is substance. There is no such thing as "intangible" property. A tax upon even that seemingly intangible thing called a franchise is after all but a tax upon substantial earnings, and that is the basis of the franchise tax as applied to Virginia railroads.

Stock certificates are no more property than is a deed to a house or lot. Stock certificates are merely the evidence of ownership.

Bonds, notes and all instruments of that character are not property, but merely evidences of debt. The bonds of Virginia in aggregate represent the debt of Virginia, and the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that as a tax upon a debt is a tax upon the power to borrow money, no State has the right to tax the bonds of the United States.

Property and property only should be taxed. All property should be taxed once and only once. Double taxation is an abomination and cannot be justified in morals or law. All forms of double taxation are to be avoided, and must in honor be avoided, by an honorable State.

If the State will only recognize these principles as the basis of her laws, she will deal justly with her tax-payers, and will gain more than she will lose. She should go to the source and lay her hands upon substance wherever it may be found and levy upon it, and leave the shadows to chase away as they please.

To Help Discharged Convicts.

A meeting will be held in this city tomorrow in the interest of a most noble object. When a convict is released from the penitentiary his condition is most pitiful, and if the convict be a woman the situation is so much the worse. It is said that five hundred white prisoners come from the reformatory, the penitentiary and the jails every year, two hundred of whom are under twenty-one years of age, more than one hundred coming from the reformatory. The dis-

charged convict comes out of prison with the odor and infamy of the prison upon him, and society is disposed to turn its back upon them. It is hard for them to find a boarding house, much less a position in which they can earn an honest livelihood, and when disheartened and reduced to straits, they are apt to fall again into a life of crime.

It is proposed, therefore, to organize in Richmond an association whose business it will be to look out for discharged convicts when they leave prison and help them to find honest work. The society proposes to operate under the charter of the Prison Association of Virginia, and as an adjunct of that organization. It is a most commendable charity, and should be supported. It has the hearty approval of Governor Montague.

Let Us Know the Truth.

Senator Tillman and his pithfork were very much in evidence in the United States Senate during the proceedings of Wednesday last. Mr. Tillman was much moved and showed intense feeling. He had satisfied himself that gross indignity was shown, and unnecessarily so, to Mrs. Morris, who was recently ejected from the White House, and he insisted upon an investigation.

There are two questions in issue, the one, whether or not a woman visitor was rudely and brutally treated; the other, whether or not a false and misleading account of the incident was sent out by the President's assistant secretary.

The last question should be answered first. If Mr. Barnes's report of the affair is correct, if, as he alleges, Mrs. Morris went into the White House and insisted upon seeing the President, and if upon being refused she screamed and carried on in a manner unbecoming a lady and made herself a nuisance and a hindrance to the business of the White House, there was nothing for the officers to do but to take her out by force. But it has been stated by reputable newspaper men who were eye-witnesses that Secretary Barnes's story was false in various particulars; that Mrs. Morris did not misbehave and that her ejection and especially the manner of it, was outrageous and disgraceful. In his speech, Mr. Tillman read a typewritten statement from a reporter, who was an eye-witness, in which it was stated that he had seen Mrs. Morris "carried off like a sack of salt with a negro at her heels and her skirts hanging from her knees."

The question first to be determined, we repeat, is: What are the facts? Is the story of Mr. Barnes true, or is the story of the reporters true, Has the President's assistant secretary willfully deceived the public? Has he misrepresented the facts? That is what we wish to know, and what the American people wish to know. If Mr. Barnes is capable of wilful misrepresentation in one case, he is capable of wilful misrepresentation in other cases, and it is a matter of profound importance that the public should know whether or not they may rely upon statements issued from Mr. Roosevelt's official residence. It is a question which Mr. Roosevelt himself should investigate without any suggestion from Congress. If Mr. Barnes's statement is true, there is nothing to complain of. If it is false, there is a double complaint. We are heartily in sympathy with Senator Tillman's determination to ascertain the truth.

Why is Richmond Left Out?

The Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds has ordered favorable report on a bill to appropriate \$100,000 for a new post-office building for the city of Atlanta; \$25,000 for a new building at Fort Worth, Tex.; \$75,000 for a new building at Anderson, S. C.; and \$100,000 for a new building at Bluefield, W. Va. The budget should have contained another item. The city of Richmond is entitled to a new government building. The receipts at the postoffice during the past year showed a most gratifying increase, beyond that of most of the cities of the United States; yet the building in which the government business is transacted here is so utterly inadequate to the demands that it has been found necessary to put the money order and registered letter department in an adjoining building which the government has purchased. This is a miserable makeshift, and unfair both to the community and the postoffice department. The demand for a new building in Richmond is urgent and no time should be lost in erecting it.

Silence being our most sensible course at the Algerias conference, it seems inexplicable to us that we didn't send as delegates, Senator C. M. Depew and Mr. H. H. Rogers.

Men who go around "courting" investigation are occasionally less eager to win than they would be in the more genial fairs of converse.

Among those who will not be present at Miss Alice's wedding, may safely be listed Messrs. Biglow, Odell and Tillman, and Mr. Morris.

Loubet's father, was a peasant, and Fialiers' grandfather, a blacksmith. France has the true Jeffersonian democracy spirit all right.

Odd if Walter Wellman and Commander Peary should chance to collide with the North Pole simultaneously.

Divers disputations are fast setting the matter by making it a deadlock canal, with the key put away and lost.

Senator Tillman has not expressed himself so candidly since the day when he begged Senator McLaughlin one.

So far this winter, it appears that our winter overcoats might as well have been left in the mothballs.

Everybody is picking holes in the Canal programme, and nobody in the Canal strip.

Practical Road Making.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—Seeing that the road question will be one of the subjects our Legislature have now before it, allow me to give you my experience on this subject. As I have once road overseer for more than 30 years,

when there was a stage running daily from Richmond to Lynchburg and road wagons from all West Virginia and even Kentucky.

Let there must be some one responsible to the court for the roads, and they must be taken out of the hands of supervisors.

And to have good roads, and not to cost too much, and able to pay for. In all the clay country there must be some judgment displayed by those who have them in charge. It is folly to pile up mud in a mud hole. The first thing is to get a foundation wherever the land's cut up. With us we have an abundance of timber, which can be so utilized to get the foundation and when used properly will last from 20 to 30 years. The old Code of Virginia is clear on this.

And the roads should be divided in three sections, as any man can take a section near him. He to give his obligation to the contract. The head man, engineer, or whoever he may be, to keep the road 30 feet wide and drained on each side, raising the centre, and not to get any compensation until he has completed this contract and approved by the head man's inspection of the same. This contract should be for a term of years, not less than four or five.

Suppose we had had such a road law as this years ago, in this time, indeed, by now we would have had good roads and not the miserable gutters and mudholes we now have to pass through.

Let us just see how this plan would work if put into force at once. This January, suppose you could put this plan in force by the 15th February. Each contractor having undertaken on nearest hand to make the road, he has completed to repair all the bad places and drain the water off and would do well each place, as it would be to his interest to do so. In our section, whenever a bad place comes, a tree falls across, etc., then the road tax would come into the pockets of those that pay it out, and in thirty days we could get our section hauled just twice the loads we now carry. We are now too poor to have macadam roads. It would bankrupt the country.

There is another feature. At present the farmers have too much burden to bear. They would have now good roads and not the lumbermen. They should be required to keep up and leave all roads in order they use. These lumbermen have done more injury to our roads in our section than the farmers combined. They go so free of any tax, or a very little at best.

In conclusion, I will say I have only one thing to say. I want to see a change, and old Virginia wake up from the ruts we have been cutting these many years gone by. It is now full time, and we are looking to our legislators to make a change, and economically. Just give us a road law without too much costly machinery. This we do not want, and no more laws for the future. Let once more be on the road of progress.

D. W. HOBSON.

Rhymes for To-Day

Nell's mother saw in William Brown

A splendid catch—none lived exquister—

And so she asked him to run down

And visit her.

Brown came, but seemed so bored that—

well,

She feared grim fate had just checked—

and her.

Brown said, "about, and as for Nell,

He hated her.

Nell's mother, though, was firm yet

blame—

A shooen only could outweather her—

She hated the two together and this

Together.

They rode on bright days, sat on wet,

And all day long he ret-a-tated her;

Brown found her well disposed, and yet

He hated her.

No other girl lived near the spot;

He was for comradeship, reduced to

her—

And so (you'll guess) in time he got

Quite used to her.

Whereat Nell's mother's gay Haw-laws

Dispelled the doubts that oft had har-

ried her.

"Twin," she quoth—with truth, because

He married her.

H. S. H.

Merely Joking.

Repentance—Wigg: "I hear that Ginn

has gone off with that lead Noyd girl."

Wagg: "Such is the report." Wigg: "I

knew she had set her cap for him."

Wagg: "She's a lively one. 'Twill take

a slight of money 'tigger up. Has he

a good wad?" Wigg: "Wad! He's got

a barrel! I wonder what his folks will

do with it?" Wagg: "Oh, they'll put it

in a barrel, and he'll be a hard bow,

load him with abuse and fire him, no

doubt."—Boston Transcript.

Stung—"Ah, me!" exclaimed Mrs. Nag-

get, "my shopping was most unsatis-

factory to-day." "Fuh!" grunted Nag-

get; "trying to get something for noth-

ing, I suppose." "Yes, dear, I was after

a birthday gift for you."—Philadelphia

Press.

How, indeed, Polly?—Polly: "I'm suing

a man for twenty kisses that he stole.

My lawyer says they're worth \$20 apiece."

Jack: "How does he know?"—Detroit

Free Press.

The Lenient Editor.—Post: "What

ought I to get for this poem?" Editor:

"You get it, you get anything, but you

ought to get six months."—Cleveland

Leader.

Infatible Test.—"Is your wife pretty?"

"Don't know as I'm a fair judge. But I

notice she's a fair to stand in a street

car."—Florence Blatter.

She'd noticed.—"Husband, 'You

know, my dear, my devotion to you is

unremittent." Wife: "Yes, I've noticed

that when I've been away and wrote to

you for money."—Baltimore American.

A Variation in Vilahy.—"I've got a

brand new idea for a melodrama," shout-

ed the dramatist, in great excitement.

"The wicked uncle wants to get rid of

the boy." "And his him with a real

plunderer, I suppose," grunted the blas-

phemer. "No, no! He gets him ad-

mitted to the Naval Academy at Annap-

olis!"—Houston Chronicle.

Mr. Tucker's Successful Mission.

President Tucker of the Jamestown ex-

position, is returning home from Europe,

and he seems to have got all that Presi-

dent Francis of the Louisiana Purchase

exposition left behind him. His success

was most gratifying—Atlanta Constitu-

tion.

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